

RIPLEY ST THOMAS
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



Key Stage 4
Options
2024

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Key Stage 4 Options

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 Options Booklet for 2024. This booklet is designed not only to help pupils decide which subjects they wish to study in Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) but also to provide general information for pupils and parents about the next two academic years.

In their education to date, pupils' curriculums have been dictated entirely by their schools, with a broad range of subjects studied, in line with the National Curriculum and beyond. At this stage they have some choice and some important decisions to make. Most of the subjects they study are again compulsory, but now they have in addition to choose three optional subjects to study to GCSE. More information about this process can be found on pages 24 and 25.

Pages 4 to 9 of this booklet detail the core subjects studied by all pupils as a compulsory part of their education; pages 10 to 23 outline the options subjects available at Ripley. If it is proving difficult to make a choice between subjects, it is worth bearing in mind that it may be possible to study a subject in the Sixth Form, even if it has not been chosen as a GCSE option, subject to interview with the Subject Leader.

Please read the information in this booklet very carefully and take advantage of all the opportunities available to ask about the courses. It is important that pupils make choices that they will be happy with for the next two years.

We will do our best to ensure that all pupils can take their chosen subjects but we cannot guarantee that this will always be possible. Groups in any subject which do not reach sufficient numbers will not run.

Further information will be provided to pupils in assembly and to pupils and parents at both the options evening and parents' evening in February. **Completed options forms must be returned to form tutors by Thursday 7th March at the latest.**

With very best wishes,



Don Gillthorpe
Assistant Headteacher (KS3)

Dates for your diary

Thursday 22nd February, 2024: **Options Evening**
Thursday 29th February, 2024: **Parents' Evening**
Thursday 7th March, 2024: **Options form deadline**

Options choices will be confirmed to pupils in the final half term of the academic year.

Core

English Language

GCSE (Eduqas)

Overview

Pupils will engage with a wide range of texts to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This specification will ensure that pupils can read fluently and write effectively. Pupils will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, expand their vocabulary, deploy figurative language and analyse texts. Spelling, punctuation and grammar make up 20% of the written examination.



Component 1 (40%)

Section A: Extract of literature assessed through a range of structured questions.

Section B: One creative writing task.

Component 2 (60%)

Section A: Two extracts of non-fiction writing (19th century and 21st century) assessed through a range of questions.

Section B: Two transactional writing tasks.

Component 3: Spoken Language (unweighted)

One presentation/speech, including responses to questions.

GCSE English Language will teach you...

to read and make inferences, to evaluate and make effective judgements, to express your views and opinions effectively, to write accurately for a range of topics, audiences and purposes.

GCSE English Language could lead to...

Sixth form study at Ripley; careers in publishing and media; recruitment and HR; advertising and marketing; law, and the education sector. All professions require a solid grasp of English Language.

Further information



**Eduqas
resources**



Ripley Firefly



BBC Bitesize



Seneca

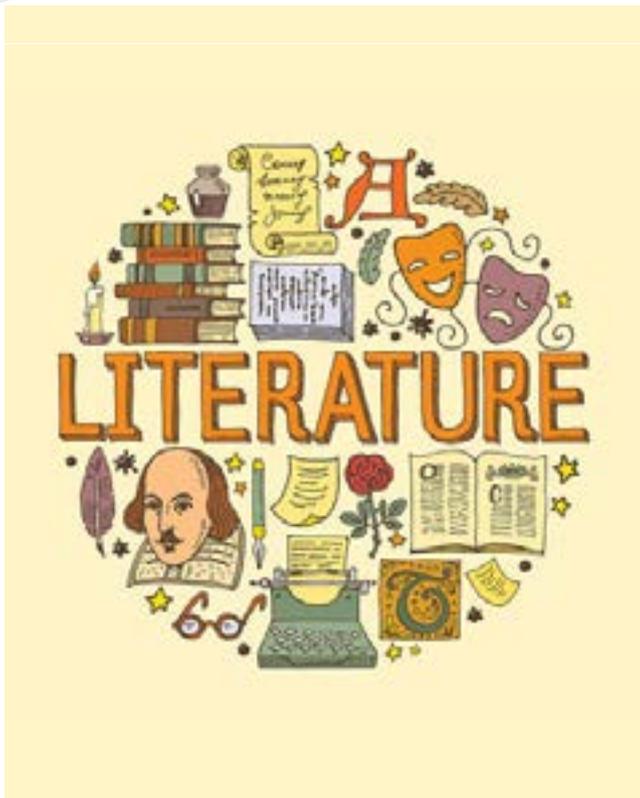
Core

English Literature

GCSE (Eduqas)

Overview

English Literature encourages pupils to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. It provides pupils with opportunities to read widely for pleasure across a range of high-quality texts in the genres of prose, poetry and drama and to develop an understanding of how literature is both rich and influential. It enables pupils to make connections across their reading and develop a clear understanding of literary works.



Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry

(40%)

Section A: **Macbeth** - One extract question and one essay question.

Section B: Two questions based on poems from the **Poetry Anthology**.

Unit 2: Post-1914 Prose, 19th Century Prose, Unseen Poetry (60%)

Section A: **An Inspector Calls** - One source-based question.

Section B: **A Christmas Carol** - One source-based question.

Section C: **Unseen poetry** - Two questions based on unseen poems.

GCSE English Literature will teach you...

how to read and explore texts in greater depths, recall important details, to evaluate writers' choices, to express your own views academically, and to consider social and historical influences on literature.

GCSE English Literature could lead to...

Ripley Sixth form; careers in copywriting, editing, teaching, journalism, marketing, publishing, advertising.

Further information



**Eduqas
Resources**



Ripley Firefly



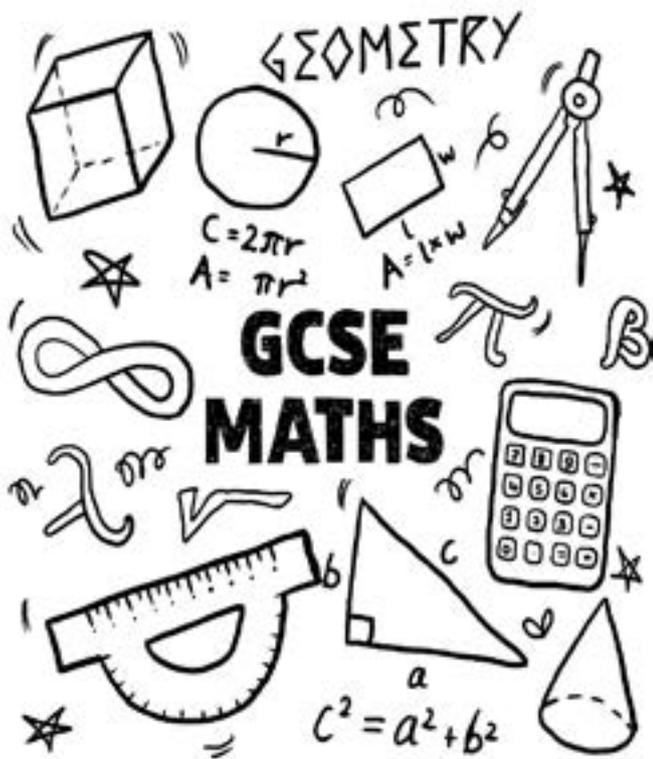
BBC Bitesize



Seneca

Overview

Mathematics is a core subject; all pupils will take GCSE Mathematics in the summer of Year 11. Through their studies, pupils will deepen their mathematical knowledge and understanding of the content studied at primary school, and during Key Stage 3, in the areas of Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry and Measure, Probability, and Statistics. It is our aim that pupils develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards Mathematics, and that pupils recognise the importance of Mathematics in their own lives outside the classroom.



GCSE Mathematics:

Paper 1 (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)

This is a non-calculator paper which is 90 minutes in length.

GCSE Mathematics:

Paper 2 (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)

This is a calculator paper which is 90 minutes in length.

GCSE Mathematics:

Paper 3 (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)

This is a calculator paper which is 90 minutes in length.

The exams have questions of varied length; from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

GCSE Mathematics will teach you...

how to reason mathematically and how to problem solve. It will develop your problem solving and analytical skills which can be applied in many areas outside of Mathematics.

GCSE Mathematics could lead to...

further mathematical study at Ripley Sixth Form which offers A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Further Mathematics. Good mathematical skills help to open up more career options which are often better paid.

Further information



**AQA
Specification**



**Sparx
Maths**



Firefly



**Corbett
Maths**



Maths Genie

Overview

Pupils will follow either the AQA Separate Science or AQA Combined Science route. Chemistry, Physics and Biology will be taught in separate lessons for either route; Combined Science, however, is the equivalent of two GCSE grades while Separate Science offers a separate GCSE for Chemistry, Physics and Biology. All Science courses are linear, with all examinations taken in Year 11. Pupils will complete compulsory practical activities throughout the course, with practical skills examined within the written papers. Pupils may be offered Higher or Foundation examination routes. It should be noted that A-level Science courses are open to all pupils who meet the entry requirements, regardless of studying Separate Science or Combined Science at GCSE.



Biology (33% of course)

Unit summary: Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.

Chemistry (33% of course)

Unit summary: Atomic structure and the periodic table, properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, Organic chemistry and Chemistry of the atmosphere.

Physics (33% of course)

Unit summary: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism.

GCSE Science will teach you...

to impart a systematic body of scientific knowledge and an understanding of scientific concepts, principles and themes. You will also develop your practical skills, allowing you to investigate the world around you.

GCSE Science could lead to...

further study of Science at Ripley Sixth Form; careers in Science, such as: Medicine, Engineering, Research, Laboratory work, astronomy, Ecologist, Data Scientist and hundreds more.

Further information



AQA GCSE



**AQA
Combined
Science**



**Firefly GCSE
Science**



**Careers in
Science**



**Sixth form
Science**

Religious Studies

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

GCSE Religious Studies focuses on the religions of Christianity and Islam and provides you with a knowledge of their core beliefs and practices, as well as their responses to modern issues. You will also have the opportunity to reflect on your own views about religion, philosophy and ethics. Paper 1 focuses on the core beliefs and practices within Christianity and Islam; for example, their beliefs about God and the afterlife. Paper 2 focuses on how these religions respond to modern day issues such as war, euthanasia, and the role of men and women, as well as how criminals should be treated.



Paper 1: The Study of Religions (50%)

This paper assesses knowledge of the core beliefs and practices of the religions of Christianity and Islam.

Paper 2: Thematic Studies (50%)

This paper assesses knowledge of Christian and Muslim beliefs in four thematic areas:

- Relationships and Families
- Religion and Life
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment

Religious Studies will teach you...

all about the rich diversity of people in our world. Religious Studies aims to give you a strong foundation in understanding the people and values associated with Christianity and Islam.

Religious Studies could lead to...

studying A-Level Religious Studies at Ripley Sixth Form. This is a great way to enhance the breadth of your knowledge and acts as a pathway to many degree courses.

Further
information



**AQA GCSE
spec.**



BBC Bitesize



Truetube



**BBC
Religions:
Christianity**



**BBC
Religions:
Islam**

Overview

Pupils will have two lessons a fortnight which will give them the opportunity to participate in a number of sports across Years 10 and 11. These sports will be done on a rotational basis, so that all pupils have access to a wide range of activities. Pupils will also have the opportunity to complete various roles within their PE lessons, e.g. leader, coach, official.



September - Easter:

Pupils will complete four different activities within their core PE lesson in Years 10 and 11: netball, football, rugby, OAA, swimming, volleyball, badminton, handball

Easter - Summer:

Pupils will complete a number of summer sports across Years 10 and 11: athletics, rounders, cricket, softball, tennis

Core PE will teach you...

the importance of being active and the effect it can have on both your mental and physical well-being. It will also allow you to develop transferable skills that are in demand by further education and employers in all sectors of industry, such as teamwork, resilience and communication skills.

Core PE could lead to...

pupils developing a lifelong enjoyment of physical activity in order to live healthy, active lifestyles.

Further
information



Firefly Resources

Options

Animal Care

BTEC Level 2 (Edexcel/Pearson)

Overview

The BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Animal Care is ideal for those pupils who seek to learn more about animal behaviour, animal wellbeing and the general care of both large and small animals.

This course is the ideal foundation to future courses such as Agriculture, Animal Science, Animal Welfare, or Veterinary Nursing.



Unit 1: Animal Handling

(33.3%)

Pupils complete two written research tasks and two written reports explaining their two filmed practical tasks handling animals in school.

Unit 2: Animal Accommodation

(33.3%)

Pupils complete two written research tasks and two written reports explaining their two filmed practical tasks preparing and cleaning animal accommodation.

Unit 3: Animal Health and Welfare

(33.3%)

This unit is an external two-hour examination. Topics include signs of health, animal housing and care, animal diseases and the uses of animals in society.

Animal Care BTEC Level 2 is for you if...

you feel that you are confident working with and caring for animals, and can produce quality written reports based on taught lesson content and research.

Animal Care BTEC Level 2 could lead to...

employment in many sectors of animal care. It is also a great foundation for Level 3 Animal Management which we offer here in Ripley Sixth form.

Further information



Specification

Options

Art and Design

GCSE (Eduqas)

Overview

During the Art and Design GCSE course, pupils will explore an exciting range of materials, techniques and processes whilst developing their contextual knowledge and critical understanding. They will develop their knowledge of contemporary and traditional artists, improving their visual literacy and gaining a better understanding of the visual world around them. Pupils will be encouraged to experiment with different materials and ideas, whilst refining their skills, producing art works that are relevant and personal to them. Studying GCSE Art and Design provides entry to a very broad range of specialisms, skills, and careers.



Unit 1: Component 1 (60%)

A portfolio of work comprising of practical workshops and a project based on a starting point chosen by the pupil.

Unit 2: Component 2 (40%)

Pupils will select a starting point from the exam paper in January of Year 11. They will have twelve weeks to produce a body of work demonstrating their skill and contextual knowledge, with the final outcome being created in a two-day, ten-hour practical exam.

GCSE Art and Design is for you if...

you enjoy being creative, want to develop your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities. You need to be willing to experiment, be open minded and to try new things. You also need to be willing to reflect on your progress and review your ideas.

GCSE Art and Design could lead to...

many different career routes, including advertising, architecture, illustrating, creative digital design, fashion, photography, art therapy, artist, set design – just to name a few! Many of our GCSE pupils choose to stay and complete our highly successful A-Level Art course here at Ripley Sixth Form.

Further
information



Eduqas Specification



Why study Art?

Options

Business

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

This GCSE is an ideal qualification for those pupils who want a broad background in business and a genuine understanding of the world of work. It will enable pupils to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. Pupils will research real-life organisations in order to develop their knowledge. The main elements of this qualification are notably Business in the Real World, Influences on Business, Business Operations, Human Resources, Marketing and Finance. Skills developed throughout the programme of study include the application of business concepts, problem solving, decision making and the analysis and evaluation of business opportunities and issues. Quantitative skills are also developed throughout the course.



Unit 1 (50%)

A 1 hour 45 minute exam focusing on the influences of operations and human resources management on business activity.

Unit 2 (50%)

A 1 hour 45 minute exam focusing on the influences of marketing and finance on business activity.

GCSE Business is for you if...

you want the opportunity to develop a wide range of transferable skills. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, analysing data and working as part of a team.

GCSE Business could lead to...

studying Business at A level, an extremely popular course. Pupils progress on to degree apprenticeships in Business and Business Management degrees at a variety of universities.

Further
information



AQA



Tutor2U

Options

Computer Science

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

Embrace the digital future with GCSE Computer Science! In this course, you'll dive into the exciting world of technology and develop vital skills for the workplace of tomorrow. Discover the inner workings of computers, explore coding in Python, and unravel the mysteries of algorithms. Gain a solid foundation in computational thinking and problem-solving techniques, empowering you to thrive in a world driven by technology. From software engineering to data analysis, Computer Science opens doors to endless career opportunities. Join us on this journey and unlock the power of the digital age!



Paper 1: Computational thinking & programming skills (50%)

Computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

Paper 2: Computing Concepts (50%)

Understanding Data representation, Computer Systems, Networks, Cyber Security, Databases and the Ethical, Legal and Environmental impacts of digital technology.

Computer Science is for you if...

you love solving puzzles, have a curiosity for technology, and want to shape the future with your innovation and coding skills.

Computer Science could lead to...

exciting careers in software development, data analysis, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and even entrepreneurship. You could be shaping the future of technology and innovation!

Further information



Computer Science Specification



Firefly

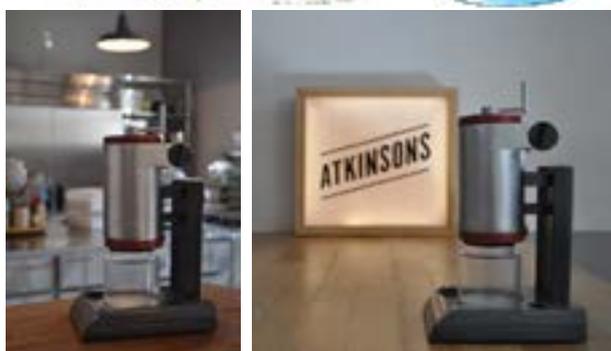
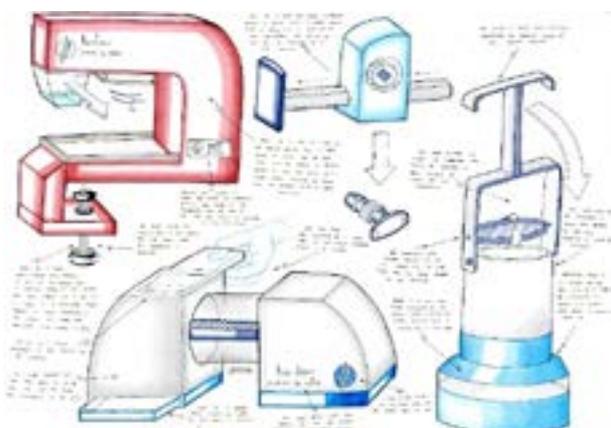
Options

Design & Technology

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

This course is designed to provide opportunities in designing and making with presentation, sketching, model-making skills, experimentation with materials, CAD/CAM (including 3D Printing), and final working 'product'. It is delivered through design tasks, making tasks, and design and manufacture assignments in which pupils will identify needs arising from real-life products and artefacts to solve real-life problems. Pupils will develop advanced sketching and communication techniques, having a 'hands on' approach producing 2D & 3D sketches and models. Pupils will use a range of compliant materials and suitable communication techniques as well as incorporating electronic control components and textile materials.



Unit 1: Non-Exam Assessment (50%)

Consists of a single integrated design and manufacture project, in response to the theme set by the examination board, taking account of the environmental, sustainable, social, economic and industrial commercial relevance.

Unit 2: Exam (50%)

Consists of a 1hour 30minute exam split into three section, section A is core technical principles, Section B is specialist technical principles section C is design and making principles.

GCSE Design & Technology is for you if...

you enjoy working creatively, using practical skills to solve real life problems. It allows you to take risks, make mistakes and to become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable.

GCSE Design & Technology could lead to...

studying Product Design, a very popular choice at A level. Former pupils work for companies, nationally and internationally, such as Dyson, Jaguar/Land Rover, BAE Systems, EDF, Ralph Lauren, Lego etc.

Further information



Specification



Real world D&T



D&T careers



Why study D&T?

Options

Digital Information Technology

BTEC (Pearson)

Overview

In today's digital age, having strong digital skills is essential for success in the future. That's why BTEC Digital Information Technology is the perfect course for pupils who want to stay ahead of the curve! This dynamic course will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate and excel in the ever-evolving digital landscape. From understanding computer systems to exploring data analytics and cybersecurity, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the digital world. Prepare yourself for the exciting career opportunities that await by enrolling in BTEC Digital Information Technology!



Unit 1: User Interface Design (30%)

Non-exam internal assessment. Learn how to plan, design and create a user interface.

Unit 2: Data Manipulation (30%)

Non-exam internal assessment. Use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information

Unit 3: Effective Digital Working Practices (40%)

External exam. Explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

Digital Information Technology is for you if...

you are eager to explore the limitless possibilities of the digital world, develop valuable technical skills, and pave your way towards a successful and fulfilling career in any sector.

Digital Information Technology could lead to...

endless career opportunities in fields such as software development, data analysis, cybersecurity, digital marketing, and technology consulting, unlocking a world of innovation and growth.

Further
information



BTEC DIT Specification



About BTECS

Options

Drama

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

If you feel you have benefited from confidence developed in Drama during Year 9, if you have enjoyed exploring the characters and themes in 'Face: The Play' by Benjamin Zephaniah and are enthusiastic about being creative in a team, then Drama is for you! During the GCSE course you will study and perform 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell, learn about working in the theatre and review a range of live theatre experiences. You will create an original piece of Drama in the style of an influential practitioner, as well as working towards two extracts for an audience. You can specialise in acting or set and/or costume design. Even if you don't want to be an actor or designer, there are so many transferable skills that Drama will surely develop!



Component 1: Written Paper (40%)

Section A: Roles and responsibilities within the Theatre, stage configurations and positions. Section B: Study of a set text. Section C: Live Theatre Review

Component 2: Devising (40%)

Responding to stimuli to create original drama, as an actor or designer. This is an NEA component to include practical and coursework that is externally moderated.

Component 3: Texts in Practice (20%)

Interpretation of two extracts from the same play, as an actor or designer. NEA, externally examined by visiting examiner

GCSE Drama is for you if...

you enjoy the study of plays, acting, directing, rehearsing, designing, working creatively as part of a team, experimenting with a range of performance styles, live theatre and step by step coursework over time.

GCSE Drama could lead to...

developing transferable skills such as confidence, public speaking, creativity, project work, and problem solving. These are desirable for many professions such as acting, directing, producing, law, and teaching.

Further information



Specification



Textbook



Drama online library



BBC Bitesize



BBC Bitesize

Options

Food Preparation & Nutrition

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

This course will help you to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. You'll also learn about food from around the world, through the study of British and international culinary traditions as well as developing an understanding of where food comes from and the challenges surrounding food security. You'll master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. This is an exciting and creative course which will allow you to demonstrate your practical skills and make connections between theory and practice.



Unit 1: Written paper (50%)

Theoretical knowledge from subject content: Food, nutrition and health, Food science, Food safety, Food choice, Food provenance. 1 hour 45 minute exam.

Unit 2: Non-Exam Assessment

Task 1: Food investigation (15%)

Assesses pupils' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%)

Assesses pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition is for you if...

you enjoy working creatively and producing practical outcomes; you are eager to develop your practical skills and enjoy the scientific principles of food and nutrition; you enjoy cooking!

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition could lead to...

various food related careers in nutrition, professional cookery, food science, dietetics, hospitality and catering, food styling, product development, health care and many more.

Further
information



Specification



Careers in Food

Options

French

GCSE (Edexcel)

Overview

The aim of the French GCSE course is to inspire a **love of languages** and an appreciation for **different cultures**. We want to broaden pupils' horizons and educate them about the advantages of being **globally aware** and **culturally sensitive**. We aim to teach pupils the importance of being **literate**, of having excellent **communication skills**, and of speaking more than one language in our **increasingly global community**.



Paper 1: Speaking (25%)

Pupils are assessed on their ability to speak using clear language for a range of purposes, which are relevant to their current and future needs and interests.

Paper 2 / 3: Listening (25%) and Reading (25%)

Pupils are assessed on their understanding of spoken and written French across a range of formal and informal contexts.

Paper 4: Writing (25%)

Pupils are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in French for different purposes and audiences.

GCSE French is for you if...

you enjoy learning languages and want to discover more about different cultures and traditions. You like expressing your ideas and opinions and have a desire to become a better communicator and travel abroad.

GCSE French could lead to...

endless possibilities. Linguists' skills are highly sought after by employers. Potential jobs include: translators, interpreters, teachers, careers in marketing, and many more, in the UK and abroad.

Further information



**Edexcel
Specification**



**Firefly French
Exam Vocabulary**



**Where will
languages take
me?**



**Practise your
French with
music!**

Options

Geography

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

Geography is about understanding the world's people, places and environments. It illuminates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future. Geography is one of the most popular option choices at GCSE with over a third of students in England taking the subject. Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study at GCSE level. If you are not sure about what you want to do in the future, Geography helps to keep your options open. It is a subject that goes well with the Sciences and Mathematics as well as the Humanities, Languages and Arts.



Unit 1: Living with the physical environment (37.5%)

Unit 1 explores the following topics: Natural Hazards, Ecosystems including Rainforests & Hot Deserts, and Coasts & Rivers.

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment (37.5%)

Unit 2 explores the following topics: Urban Issues and Challenges including a study of Manchester and Rio de Janeiro, Changing Economic World, Natural Resources.

Unit 3: Geographical applications (25%)

This unit will assess your Fieldwork and an Issue Evaluation. This contains a decision-making exercise based on a pre-release resources booklet in Year 11.

GCSE Geography is for you if...

you are interested in global issues and enjoy learning about people, cultures and the environment. If you are keen to develop a range of skills and apply these to real problems then Geography is for you.

GCSE Geography could lead to...

studying Geography at A Level here at Ripley. Geography pupils have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, teaching, engineering, arts, design and media, town planning, and many (many) more...

Further information



GCSE Firefly page



GCSE revision pages



AQA GCSE Geography



Internet Geography



BBC Bitesize

Options

History

GCSE (AQA)

Overview

GCSE History allows pupils to develop a wide range of transferable skills sought after by many employers, including the ability to collect, collate and prioritise information. Pupils develop a detailed factual understanding of a range of historical periods, learn to use, and make judgements about various kinds of evidence such as film, photographs, and written material and to think about the causes and consequences of events. There are opportunities to study history from a variety of perspectives, including political, social, economic and cultural, thereby helping pupils to appreciate the diversity of the societies studied and the development of the modern world.



Unit 1: Conflict and Tension

(25%) A study of the effects of the First World War and the reasons for the outbreak of the Second World War.

Unit 2: Germany 1890–1945

(25%) The story of the transition of Germany from empire to democracy, then to the rise of the Nazi dictatorship.

Unit 3: Migration, empires and the people (25%)

Exploring how the identity of the people of Britain has been shaped by their interaction with the wider world.

Unit 3: Norman England (25%)

A study of the extent of the change brought about in England by the Norman Conquest following the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

GCSE History is for you if...

you enjoy the study of the past, if your imagination is fired by stories of the different cultures, countries and civilisation and if you enjoy the challenges of thinking analytically.

GCSE History could lead to...

a wide range of potential careers including journalism, law, politics, business, marketing or teaching – but the skills you will develop are useful for a wide range of other careers or for future studies.

Further
information



AQA History



**The Historical
Association**



Firefly

Options

Music

GCSE (Edexcel)

Overview

Some people really enjoy making music as singers or instrumentalists and some simply enjoy listening to it; however we encounter music, it plays a big part in our lives. There is considerable flexibility in the course, allowing you to follow your own musical interests, including popular as well as classical styles. The transferable skills developed through this course are highly valued by employers and universities and, as such, GCSE Music is suitable as a qualification for those people who enjoy music but don't intend to take it further as well as those wishing to study music at A Level and beyond.



music
AT RIPLEY ST THOMAS

Unit 1: Performance (30%)

Unit summary – we work together to develop your performance skills and submit two audio recordings at Easter of Year 11.

Unit 2: Composition (30%)

Unit summary – we work together to develop your composition skills and submit two pieces at Easter of Year 11.

Unit 3: Exam (40%)

Unit summary – we study eight set works including Star Wars and Killer Queen and answer questions on what we've learnt.

GCSE Music is for you if...

you enjoy performing, writing, or listening to music and want to explore the subject at a higher level. There is something for everyone on the course.

GCSE Music could lead to...

sixth form study at Ripley. Beyond this, a substantial number of careers in many different sectors including the arts.

Further information



Edexcel GCSE
Music



Co-curricular
activities at
Ripley



GCSE Music
resources on
Firefly



The value of
music
education



Careers in the
music industry
and beyond

Options

Physical Education

GCSE (OCR)

Overview

GCSE PE equips pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop their own performance in sport. They develop their understanding of socio-cultural influences on participation in sport, and the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being. Pupils are assessed both academically and practically, so we strongly advise that pupils selecting this course not only enjoy learning about the human body, but are also participating in one or more sports outside of school, plus sports within school.



Unit 1: Physical factors affecting performance (30%)

60-minute written paper – Applied anatomy and physiology; Physical training.

Unit 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (30%)

60-minute written paper – Socio-cultural influences; Sports psychology; Health, fitness and well-being.

Unit 3: Practical performance (30%)

Three sports: one individual sport, one team sport and one more, either individual or team.

Unit 4: Analysis and evaluation of performance (AEP) (10%)

Coursework completed during lessons.

GCSE PE is for you if...

you are eager to learn more about the human body or how the brain responds to exercise, and if you currently participate in a number of sports in or out of school.

GCSE PE...

will prepare learners for the further study of PE at Ripley Sixth Form, or sports science courses, as well as other related subject areas such as psychology, sociology and biology.

Further information



**GCSE PE
OCR Specification**



**GCSE PE
Practical sports**



**GCSE PE
Firefly Resources**

Options

Spanish

GCSE (Edexcel)

Overview

The aim of the Spanish GCSE course is to inspire a **love of languages** and an appreciation for **different cultures**. We want to broaden pupils' horizons and educate them about the advantages of being **globally aware** and **culturally sensitive**. We aim to teach pupils the importance of being **literate**, of having excellent **communication skills**, and of speaking more than one language in our **increasingly global community**.



Paper 1: Speaking (25%)

Students are assessed on their ability to speak using clear language for a range of purposes, which are relevant to their current and future needs and interests.

Paper 2 / 3: Listening (25%) and Reading (25%)

Students are assessed on their understanding of spoken and written Spanish across a range of formal and informal contexts.

Paper 4: Writing (25%)

Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in Spanish for different purposes and audiences.

GCSE Spanish is for you if...

you enjoy learning languages and want to discover more about different cultures and traditions. You like expressing your ideas and opinions and have a desire to become a better communicator and travel abroad.

GCSE Spanish could lead to...

endless possibilities. Linguists' skills are highly sought after by employers. Potential jobs include: translators, interpreters, teachers, careers in marketing, and many more, in the UK and abroad.

Further information



**Edexcel
Specification**



**Firefly Spanish
Exam Vocabulary**



**Where will
languages take
me?**



**Practise your
Spanish with
music!**

Options

What to choose?

Core subjects

All pupils are expected to study the following subjects to GCSE level:

English Literature
English Language
Mathematics
Science
Religious Studies

In order to educate the whole person and to prepare pupils for life beyond school, all pupils will receive:

Physical Education
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (including Relationships and Sex Education)
Careers Education

Option subjects

In addition to the compulsory, core subjects, we also offer optional subjects:

Pupils must choose **one** optional subject from:

Computer Science
French
Geography
History
Spanish

Pupils must then choose a further **two** subjects from:

Animal Care (BTEC)
Art and Design
Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Digital Information Technology (BTEC)
Drama
Food Preparation and Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Spanish

How can parents/carers help?

The support of parents/carers is a critical feature in the success of their child at school. Whilst you clearly cannot do your child's work for them, there are many things that you can do to help:

- Provide a quiet place in the home where your child can do homework. Although some children may find it easier to work with music in the background, television and smart phones etc. are always a distraction.
- Check that sufficient time is allowed for homework. This may mean checking that homework is completed before children go out.
- Regularly check your child's Pupil Handbook, Firefly task and SchoolSynergy notifications.
- Talk to your child about the progress of work; encourage them when it is difficult and help if there are problems.
- Ensure that your child is aware of Controlled Assessment deadlines and help to plan in order to meet them.
- Encourage your child to produce the best possible work in terms of presentation, quantity etc.
- Ensure that your child goes to bed at a reasonable time so that they are neither tired nor late for school.
- Ensure that your child has all the equipment that they need for working at both school and home.
- Contact your child's subject teacher if you have concerns over their work.

Making decisions

Making decisions is never easy! It is essential that your child thinks carefully about which subjects to study. We recommend giving them the following advice:

- Do** choose subjects you enjoy.
- Do** choose any subjects which are essential for your career choice.
- Do** consider your potential future career options and ask Mrs Applegate for advice.
- Do** discuss your ideas with your parents and teachers.
- Do not** choose a subject because you like or dislike a particular teacher.
- Do not** choose a subject because a friend has chosen it.

Will my child get what they choose?

Although it is hoped that the majority of pupils will be allocated to the subjects they have opted for, the school can only accommodate a certain number in each area. Pupils will not be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, but each pupil will be considered in his or her own right. If too few pupils choose a particular subject, it may not be a 'viable' group, in which case pupils will be allocated to their reserve choices.

It is essential that reserve choices are filled in; option forms which are incomplete will be returned to pupils.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Subject	Board	Tiers	Assessment
English Literature	Eduqas	Single	100% examination
English Language	Eduqas	Single	100% examination
Mathematics	AQA	Foundation/Higher	100% examination
Science	AQA	Foundation/Higher	100% examination
Religious Studies	AQA	Single	100% examination
Animal Care (BTEC)	Edexcel/ Pearson	Single	66.67% controlled assessment 33.33% examination
Art and Design	Eduqas	Single	60% portfolio 40% externally set assignment
Business	AQA	Single	100% examination
Computer Science	AQA	Single	100% examination
Design and Technology	AQA	Single	50% controlled assessment 50% examination
Digital Information Technology (BTEC)	Edexcel/ Pearson	Single	60% controlled assessment 40% examination
Drama	AQA	Single	60% controlled assessment 40% examination
Food Preparation and Nutrition	AQA	Single	50% controlled assessment 50% examination
French	Edexcel	Foundation/Higher	25% speaking examination 75% written examination
Geography	AQA	Single	75% examination 25% controlled assessment
History	AQA	Single	100% examination
Music	Edexcel/ Pearson	Single	60% controlled assessment 40% examination
Physical Education	OCR	Single	40% controlled assessment 60% examination
Spanish	Edexcel/ Pearson	Foundation/Higher	25% speaking examination 75% written examination



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